

Gardner-Webb Athletics From Senior College To The Present

The Pilot asked Athletic Director Eddie Holbrook (also basketball coach) to compare G-W's overall athletic program when it first became a senior college, to the present.

Coch Holbrook stated, "If you take all of our programs then, and compare them with the present programs, you can tell by the records how we are doing." Coach Holbrook took each sport separately, comparing them with when Gardner-Webb first became a senior college with the present.

Football—(Then) Football was very weak. It is very difficult to build a good program in football, because of the number of people involved. It takes only five or six good players in basketball to get a good program started, while it takes several good players in football.

Football Program at Present—Our football team this year was a proven winner with a good solid foundation. I think that we were competitive within the league this year, and that we have a good chance at the championship next year.

Basketball Program—(Then) Fortunately, our basketball did not go through the losing years, though we did have a year or two where we lost more games than we have been losing recently. However, it took the basketball program a little while to adapt, as it did with the other programs.

Basketball Program at Present—Our basketball team presently is 20-2 and ranked 4 after being ranked number one for several weeks this year.

Golf Program—The golf program was sort of mediocre but maintained winning seasons.

Volleyball Wrap-Up

Women	Record	
2nd Campus House	.....	5-1
HAPY	.....	4-1
Decker	.....	3-1
Stroup	.....	1-4
1st Campus House	.....	0-5
Men	Record	
3rd Lutz-Yelton	.....	7-0
Power Squadron	.....	5-2
L & M Spikes	.....	4-3
1st Lutz-Yelton	.....	4-3
Hucks-Hembree	.....	4-3
3rd Floor Spangler	.....	3-4
Faculty Admin.	.....	2-3
2nd Lutz-Yelton	.....	1-6
Moncrief's Team	.....	1-6

Intramural Wrist Wrestling Championships

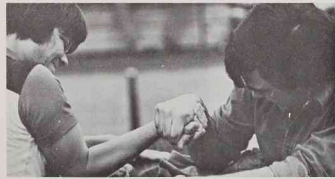
Photos by Mike Gerly



David Underhill (right) defeats Roger Beatty (left), with Mark Polk officiating, in the 195 lb. limit class.



Bobby Hopkins (left) overpowers Alvin Sparks (right) in the unlimited class (over 225 lbs.)



Robert Spires (right) downs Steve Patterson (left) in the 145 lb. limit class. Not pictured: Marvin Oliver won by default.

Golf Program at Present—Our golf team has won two consecutive national championships, which is a great tribute to them.

Baseball Program—Our baseball program is kind of a middle of the road senior college program at present. With the addition of a couple of real good pitchers, we can be district contenders.

Tennis Program—Our tennis program was also just so-so.

Tennis Program at Present—Our tennis is still struggling. We are a little disappointed that we are not playing as well, but part of that is due to the fact that until this past year we did not have a good tennis facility. It was very difficult to get tennis players to come to a school to play tennis that did not have a good tennis facility. Presently, we have the good facilities and our squad is getting better.

Ladies Basketball—The ladies have developed from a .500 record to district regular season champions in three short years. They will be playing for the district tournament championship as well this year. I think that Phyllis Littlefield and the ladies have done a remarkable job.

Soccer—We have initiated soccer on the club sport level, and have a lot of students interested in it.

Track—Since the installation of the Thompson all-weather track, our program has steadily improved, and school records have been broken practically each year. A good portion of our track team is made up of athletes who also participate in other sports and use track to help refine their quickness as well as increase their stamina.

Coch Holbrook summed the situation up by stating, "Our athletic program is just one part of the college's activities. If any students have special interests in any particular sport, we would welcome them for try-outs."

Racquetball (Continued from Page 3)

rally retain their bounce for several games. (An exception may be when the competitors hit unusually hard or the walls are of a rough composition.)

The serious player, however, will buy only quality equipment. Although a wooden racquet may satisfy the occasional participant, top amateur and professional players use metal and fiberglass. Several good balls exist. The Seamco 444, official ball of the International Racquetball Association, and the 5582, adopted by the National Racquetball Association, are ordinarily used in sanctioned tournaments.

The sudden growth of the sport has created a new market for companies selling athletic equipment. Ektelon, Leach, Omega, and Vittet, pioneers in the field, are being challenged by such firms as Wilson, which is now producing both balls and racquets. Marco Corporation has announced plans to expand its line to compete with the best racquets offered by the older companies.

Certainly, the estimated three million players today (50,000 ten years ago) have aroused the interest of manufacturers. Although equipment is easily obtained, the construction of playing facilities has not kept pace with the demand for courts on which to play. Most men and women reserve rooms at the Y, where competition for time is often as fierce as games on the court. Private clubs exist, but they are frequently either too expensive or are inaccessible to people who live outside metropolitan areas.

New courts are, however, gradually appearing. Sports Illustrated, a recent entrant into construction of racquetball facilities, has announced plans for a complex outside Charlotte. One private club serves Shelby, and consideration is being given to building a tennis-racquetball club elsewhere in Cleveland County. The proposed special events center for Gardner-Webb could contain enough courts to make G-W the hub of such activity in this area and lead to more extensive intramural programs and even to intercollegiate competition.

But racquetball is hardly defined by equipment and facilities alone. Its appeal rests in the activity itself. Two people, isolated in a small room (indeed, the similarity to a cell of solitary confinement is not remote), test their reflexes, strength, endurance, and courage. They become madmen with waving hair that soon mats under rivers of sweat. Their eyes burn fiercely, their chests heave, and they climb walls and slide across the floor as if chased by devils. They hit each other with the ball—hard. And sometimes with the racket. They collide with each other and claim hindlers and screens unashamedly. They suspect conspiracies.

Because many courts lack spectator areas, the competitors seem trapped in a time warp from which only the victor will escape. Reality ceases to exist, the body aches and falters, and reason yields to instinct. These civilized men reverse evolution as they scream, curse fate, and lunge with oversized paws at a small black object sent by the gods to confuse their senses and to deny them succor. They weep that they were born.

But, masochists all, they revel in the punishment. Away from society's sweet, hypocritical smiles, her banality and sterility, away from the structured, stultifying worlds of business, science, and education, they covet confinement in their little box with lights that glare down like evil eyes. It is their purgatory, for here they are cleansed until, further expiation required, they return for yet another purging by the glowing demons of racquetball.

Attention Joggers

The Intramural Program is presently sponsoring a marathon race for joggers beginning at Gardner-Webb and ending somewhere (not yet pinpointed) in the Tennessee Mountains, which is a distance of 150 miles. The race began on January 30, 1978, and will continue until the above distance is completed.

Entrants in the race include male and female students, non-students, and faculty members; a winner will be selected from each of these groups, the winner being the first to complete 150 miles. The progress of each jogger is being plotted on a map on the Intramural Bulletin Board. Runners must run pre-measured distances and must report these distances in mile, half-mile, or quarter mile units within 24 hours after completing them. Forms for reporting daily mileage may be obtained from Dr. Gardner and placed in a designated folder on the bulletin board. All entrants are on the honor system in terms of reporting mileage figures.

It is still not too late to sign up for this marathon for those who think they can catch up. If anyone is interested, please go by or call (Ext. 209) Dr. Gardner's office in Bost Gymnasium to sign up.

Basketball Championships Held Here

The NAIA Nerf Basketball Championships are currently being held at GWC. This thrilling action packed event takes place every Wednesday night at 11:00, before anxious spectators. The games are held in the spacious confines of room 115 Spangler.

The Pilot learned of these exciting Nerf ball games from one of the founders of this event, Obbie Todd. It is also Obbie's room where the events are held. The game played is that of "Horse", where players take daring shots from all over the room. The shots range from simple lay-ups to complicated touch shots.

GWG broadcasts the results of the events as they are held. Other dorms (particularly female) frequently call in their support of the participants. To be eligible to play, the hopeful applicants first come by Obbie's room and play one game to qualify for that week. Out of the several who qualify, 8 to 10 participants are then chosen for competition. The competition will continue the remaining Wednesday nights of this semester. At the end of the year, all previous winners will compete for the Grand Championship. The winners after six championship matches are Russell Grady, Phil Strickland, Chuck Burch, and Ted Cox.